

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08304 271211Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SSM-03 DHA-02 /076 W  
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R 271035Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6696  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 8304

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SA, LE  
SUBJECT: LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH A LOCAL JOURNALIST ON 19 DECEMBER, LEBANESE PREMIER, SALIM AHAMD AL-HUSS, AFFIRMED THAT HIS VISIT TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA HAD BEEN VERY FRUITFUL. AL-HUSS SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD BEEN MOST UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATIVE OF THE PROBLEMS FACING LEBANON AND WAS SIN- CERELY INTERESTED IN HELPING THE LEBANESE PEOPLE.

2. ACCORDING TO AL-HUSS, LEBANON WAS SEEKING SAUDI ASSIS- TANCE IN FOUR AREAS: THE PUBLIC SECTOR, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE PALESTINIAN QUARTER AND THE REBUILDING OF THE LEBANESE ARMY. THE SAUDIS WERE LEAST ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SUPPORTING THE PUBLIC SECTOR, WHICH, AL-HUSS NOTED, THEY HAVE HISTOR- ICALLY DISTRUSTED. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY WERE MOST INTER- ESTED IN AIDING THE REBUILDING OF THE LEBANESE ARMY.  
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 08304 271211Z

3. CHARACTERISTICALLY, ACCORDING TO AL-HUSS, THE SAUDIS WERE UNWILLING TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ANY OF THESE FOUR AREAS. INSTEAD, THEY RECOMMENDED TO AL-HUSS THAT HE COMPLETE HIS SCHEDULED VISITS TO KUWAIT AND THE UAE AND REPORT THE RESULTS OF HIS TRIPS BACK TO SAUDI

ARABIA. THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN BE IN A  
BETTER POSITION TO MAKE A DETERMINATION OF THE KIND AND AMOUNT  
OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IT WOULD BE ABLE TO OFFER TO LEBANON.  
AL-HUSS TOLD THE JOURNALIST THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE SAUDIS  
WOULD BE VERY FORTHCOMING IN HELPING LEBANON, BUT THAT THEY  
WOULD NOT TAKE THE LEAD IN REBUILDING LEBANON UNTIL THEY  
KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THEIR NEIGHBORS IN THE PENINSULA WERE  
DOING.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

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